

Dream Keepers

Educators at William Wirt Middle School are helping each scholar to realize their dreams. Parents & Community Members - Thank you for supporting our school!

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #2: Winter 2012

History Day

Social Studies will be hosting History Day at William Wirt Middle School. All scholars have been given the assignment!

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Instrumental Music Composers

Read about our scholar-composers at WWMS!

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MATH CLUB

I love math!!

You will be next to catch "math fever." WWMS scholars remain after school to participate in the Math Club!

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iPads @WWMS



Below: Read about our scholars using iPads. Parent Tech tips are on Page 2

Guidance Introduces "Advisories" to WWMS

Learn more about advisories and other facts from our Guidance Department

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Team Oxford

The scholars from Team Oxford visited the Museum of American History.

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iPads @WWMS

The scholars at William Wirt Middle School have been given an opportunity to use digital mobile technology in the classroom. Read to find out how William Wirt Middle School educators are transforming education through digital learning.

Scholars on each team have been distributed an iPad to support learning in Reading English Language Arts, math, science, social studies and creative arts. Educators have planned lessons using apps and online resources on the iPad. Some of those lessons include: scanning QR (quick response) codes to access sites directed by the teacher, using eClickers to solicit student responses to questions (which provides immediate data for



William Wirt Middle School in the News
<http://cnsmaryland.org/index.php?p=3607>

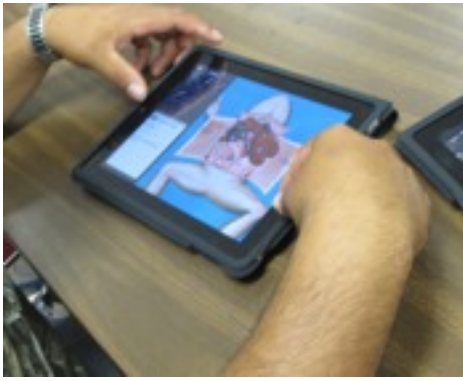
teachers to inform instruction), and "Sundry Notes" (which allows scholars to take notes and organize the information according to their needs, while adding images and other special features).

Parent Support is Needed!

Digital resources provide amazing opportunities to our educators and scholars. Educators can inspire scholars' interest in content, while providing a powerful resource to access information, create original multimedia content, and manage their own learning.

To assist the school in this endeavor, it is important that each parent assist in instilling digital citizenship skills in each scholar. Here is how you can continue to help:

1. Sign and review the "Student Pledge for iPad Use" and "Gmail Parent/Student Permission" Forms. Discuss the information on both forms with your child.
2. Continue modeling ethical uses of technology at home. Teach scholars about the time, creativity and skill



required to create digital content. Therefore, accessing, using or “borrowing” resources without paying for it hurts the creator of that content. Not only that, pirated, “bootleg” or inappropriately accessed resources is illegal.

3. Tell your child about safe uses of technology and ensure scholars are given worthwhile tasks to do when using technology. While there are games and other fun activities that can be done on mobile devices, model using technology to complete daily routines, such as managing their time with a digital calendar. Students can organize extracurricular commitments, school assignments, chores and other requirements by setting up the calendar with reminders using digital task lists and other calendar features. Show students how to use the technology safely and meaningfully.

4. Make sure scholars have structured opportunities to use technology. Set time limits on the hours scholars can use the resources. If possible, restrict access to technology after a certain hour during the week and on weekends.

5. Let scholars know your expectations when they use technology. Discuss cyber bullying, students’ online reputation, and the appropriate types of information shared online

Parents are our scholars’ first teachers! Let’s continue to work together to help our scholars to learn digital citizenship skills and attitudes.

~Ms. S. A. Montgomery, Media Specialist

“History Day” Projects in ALL Social Studies Classes

Social Studies students are encouraged to select a topic of interest to participate in the Maryland Historical Society’s National History Day competition. Students from across America will be contributing exciting and innovative projects reflecting their understanding of local, national and international topics in History. Parents, please ask your child questions about the history day topic he or she has chosen. Feel free to take a trip as a family to the library, historical sites and research online to find out more information about your topic. Some great resources can be found on our Library Media Online Patron Access Catalog by visiting destiny.pgcps.org. See Mrs. Montgomery, the Media Specialist for William Wirt Middle School for the username and password to access the online databases such as: Student Resource Center, SIRS Knowledge Source and so many more.

All Scholars in William Wirt are working on “History Day” Projects. This year’s theme is “Revolution, Reaction and Reform.”

The in-school “History Day” will be February 9, 2012. Projects will be presented in the following categories:

-  papers,
-  websites,
-  exhibits,
-  performances, and
-  documentaries.

February is Black History Month. Stay tuned for for the up coming Black History Program.

~Ms. S. Morton, Social Studies Department Chair

Thinking Creatively

William Wirt scholars are composing original pieces!

This past quarter brought new skills and challenges for William Wirt’s Band Students. Students were asked to compose a song utilizing music concepts and guidelines learned and discussed throughout the year. Students were very creative in their assignments composing and arranging everything from their own version of “Hot Cross Buns” to Beyonce’s “Halo.”

~Mr. Barnes, Instrumental Music Educator

Advisories @WWMS

This year Prince George’s County Public School has implemented Advisories for all middle school students.

Advisory is an essential and integral part of a developmentally responsive middle school.

“One that fosters trust, communication, and a true sense of belonging for the student as the result of positive relationships between students and teacher, and students and fellow students.” ~Burns, Behre Jenkins & Kane

Our scholars will start advisories on Wednesday, January 18th and will continue every other Wednesday until the end of the school year.

Guidance Dates to Remember:

End of the Quarter: January 20, 2012

Report Cards Released: February 3, 2012

~Mr. C. Quarrles, Counseling Department Chair



Math Club @WWMS

The Math Department at William Wirt Middle School *now* has a Math Club!!



Three Cheers for the Math Club!

Some members of the math club have been training to participate in the PGCPS Middle School Math Competition.

The competition, which was postponed due to inclement weather, will now be held in the Spring.

The math club meets on Wednesdays and Fridays after school from 4pm-5pm and is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who are yearning to explore their mathematical curiosities.

(Students who stay after school for Jaguar Math Club meetings must have their own ride home or be allowed to walk home from school as there is no bus that leaves WWMS at 5pm.)

Good luck and Happy Problem-Solving to our Jaguar Math team!



Our WWMS Jaguar Math Competitors

- ☀️ Daisy Velasco
- ☀️ Cameron Burton
- ☀️ Ashley Galicia
- ☀️ Danetra Jones
- ☀️ Brian Alas
- ☀️ Joshua Camacho
- ☀️ Bayron Celis
- ☀️ Irvin Bautista
- ☀️ Nwamaka Molokwu
- ☀️ Jocelyn Rangel
- ☀️ Gilberto Torillo
- ☀️ Nicholas Turner
- ☀️ Daion Huggins

~Ms. J. Jones, Math Department Chair



TEAM OXFORD's News

On December 16th, 50 scholars from the Oxford Team, chaperoned by Mr. Price and Dr. Frierson, ventured to Washington D.C. to visit our nation's attic, The Museum of American History. Students were able to connect their learning in all subject areas to the exhibits in the museum. We walked to the Air and Space Museum, had lunch in the food court and spent the rest of the afternoon touring that museum. It was a wonderful day of learning.

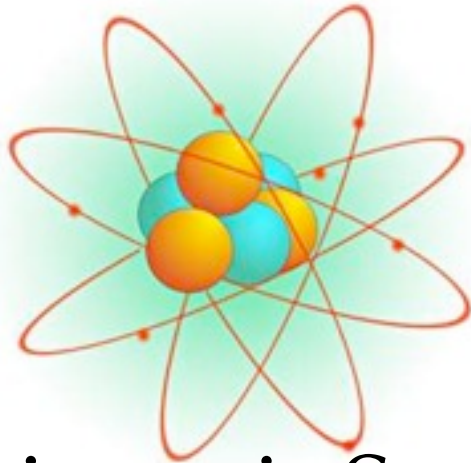
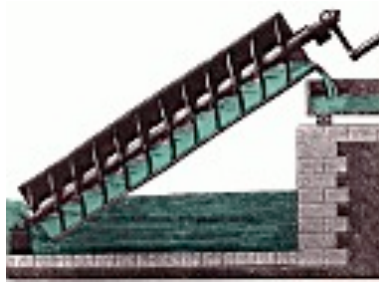
The Team hosted students in two afternoon opportunities to improve their grades for the second quarter. The entire team of teachers participated.

~Dr. J. Frierson, Oxford Team Leader

CSTEM 2012

Select CSTEM Scholars will be traveling to Houston Texas from March 29-April 1, 2012 to represent Team Prince George's County in the International CSTEM Challenge. Scholars, educators and parents should mark their calendars for upcoming Saturday Feeder Pattern Work Sessions: **January 28, February 11, February 25, and March 3.** Flyers will be sent home with scholars indicating up-to-date information.

~Mrs. S. A. Montgomery, CSTEM Coordinator



Science is Spectacular!!

“Our hard work and diligent efforts are definitely paying off.”

— Ms. L. Armfield, Science Department Chair

Through rigorous laboratory investigations, effective iPad integration activities and tasks, Philosophical Chairs and Socratic Seminars, and Expert Learning Stations, our science department is on the cutting edge of innovation.

We are the first middle school in the county to sponsor a completely electronic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair (which will be held on February 9, 2012).

Our scholars have worked extremely hard to produce quality projects, and it's our hope to submit at least ten of their

creations to the County Science Fair in April.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate our 8th grade scholars for continued improvement on our Formative Assessment Systems Tests. During the first quarter, one of our classes received the highest scores in the county on the assessment. Our hard work and diligent efforts are definitely paying off.

~L. Armfield, Science Department Chair



FREE!!
GRATIS!!
FOOD
DISTRIBUTION
Distribucion de
Alimentos



Distribucion de alimentos
GRATIS!!!
Martes 31 de Enero 2012



FREE!
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
PLEASE BE PROMPT!!

Location: William Wirt Middle School
 6200 Tuckerman Street
 Riverdale, MD 20737

Please bring your **own bags** for food distribution.



College and Career Ready

"William Wirt Middle School's scholars and staff celebrate literacy!"

- Ms. Davis, rELA Department Chair

William Wirt Jaguars are working diligently to become College and Career Ready!!

As we approach the 2nd semester, it comes with the **Maryland School Assessment (MSA)**, common core in the foreground! We began preparing in August with great expectations for the Wirt scholars.



Reflecting on our 1st semester (Q1&Q2) English/Language Arts studies, it's great to share that we began our year laying a solid foundation of increased reading and writing! Instruction up through our winter break included reading strategy tools to better unlock comprehension of more complex text. Writing instruction, like reading, has been central to instruction. All students (grades 6, 7 & 8) are required to write a **literary analysis** essay. The lit analysis essay process requires students to engage in a study of a specific author's work; critique the writing style and write a five-paragraph essay. **Essay composition** should help the reader interpret the select author's style etc. Jaguar essayists and novelists are



integrating the iPads at every turn of instruction.

The scholars will begin studies of the **informational unit (4)** with focus on reading to write critical responses in the form of persuasive (arguments), editorialized writing and other real world documents. We have a great deal to celebrate in preparation for success on the MSA (as we transition into the Common Core).

Building Capacities of Literate Individuals

Jaguars Scholars and Staff

Celebrate Literacy:

- Achieve 3000, an online reading program for ALL students
- Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Book Party #2 affords ALL 815 students a book of choice for their home library.
- Over 50% of students returned Winter Break packets. Those scholars will receive a New Year's Premier Book Party invitation.

We will participate in the African American Read-In February 1-29.

<http://www.ncte.org/action/aari/packetinfo>.

Writing Contests—We want Jaguar families and community to get involved!

<https://www.olivegarden.com/PastaTales.aspx>



Young Authors Middle School Contest

- We have received 10 entries from Wirt Jaguar;
- Three advance to the State;
- Winners to be announced at the SoMIRAC... :-)

Jaguar Chronicle, our school newspaper, is a hit with students, staff and community! Contact Ms. Sims, faculty advisor for more information.

~Ms. B.J. Davis, Reading English Language Arts Department Chair

Administrative Notes:

“The Dream Keeper” by Langston Hughes

“Bring me all your dreams, you dreamer. Bring me all your heart melodies that I may wrap them in a blue cloud-cloth away from the too-rough fingers of the world.”

Students are doing great things at William Wirt Middle School! Not only are there many students with a great work ethic, with good character, and that are exemplary citizens, our students also have many outstanding academic achievements.

For example, William Wirt Middle School is an AVID National Certified School 2010-2011.

Students have completed their projects for their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fair. William Wirt Middle School has held the 1st completely electronic STEM Fair in the county.

Girls Excel in Math and Science (GEMS) students have taken water samples and helped to clean the Anacostia Watershed.

Our Reading and Language Arts students are writing original narratives from their own experiences and using a program, from both school and home, called Achieve 3000 to improve their reading level.

In Social Studies, students are interviewing relatives about career experiences, researching careers, and writing haiku poems about cultural exchange.



Students are giving technology presentations on their ability to use iPad and GPS map technology to show how to get from here to a foreign place and then identify appropriate activities for that location.

Students are creating and presenting mathematics lessons for their own class. One example is a student created board game where players have to evaluate algebraic expressions correctly to advance in the game.

(Of course, while many of our students are doing well, a few are not. If your child is not doing well, please encourage them to do better, so that they will not have to repeat a grade.)

So, whenever you run into a William Wirt Middle School student, give them a smile and a pat on the back, because they deserve it!

~Mr. A. Salaam

Administrators

Mr. Christian — Principal
Mr. Nelson — Assistant Principal
Ms. Sator — Assistant Principal
Mr. Salaam — Resident Principal

William Wirt Middle School

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